

ATTN: BOX PCT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Noriyuki NAKAOKA, Akira KAWAKAMI and Hideya YAMADA

Appln. No.: NOT YET ASSIGNED

PCT/JP99/04926, filed September 10, 1999

Filed: May 4, 2000

For: SEMI-HARD MAGNETIC MATERIAL, METHOD OF PRODUCING SAME, AND MAGNETIC MARKER USIN G SAME

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENTUNDER 37 CFR §§ 1.97 and 1.98Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 CFR §1.56, Applicants hereby notify the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem relevant to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed no later than three months from the application's filing date and therefore no certification under 37 CFR §1.97(e) or fee under 37 CFR §1.17(p) is required.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 CFR §1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicants enclose herewith a copy of a corresponding foreign Search Report citing such documents, together with an English-language version (if not already included) of that portion of the Search Report indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign office.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 CFR §1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicants submit the following explanations:

The submission of the attached English language abstracts along with the respective JPA Nos.8-82285 and 8-87237 constitute concise statements of relevance of the respective references.

JP-B-51-18884 and JP-A-8-82285 are disclosed on page 1 in the specification of the above-identified application.

"Heat Treatment" Vol.38, No.2, pages 75 to 79, issued April, 1998 is disclosed on page 3 in the specification of the above-identified application.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicants do not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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